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Lolo Builds First Luge Run

Stan Benham, vice president of the International Bobsled Federation, points out luge features to (left to right): Samuel J. Chapman, director of the State Planning Board; Dr. Amos Little, 1965 USSA delegate to the World Ski Federation; and Howard Lord, president of the northern division of the U. S. Ski Ass'n.

The first luge run in the United States will be built at Lolo Hot Springs, near Missoula, this fall.

A luge (rhymes with rouge) is a one or two-man sled which is ridden on a miniature bobsled course. It is an old European sport but new to the Olympics and in America.

Therefore, says Stanley Benham, vice president of the International Bobsled Federation, the state that gets into it first has a good chance of dominating the sport and also of being the site for training of the 1968 Winter Olympics luge team.

Benham, who is from Lake Placid, New York, toured Montana in July at the invitation of the State Planning Board to survey Montana's recreational potential for winter sports. He was enthusiastic about the state's potential for expansion in this area and said there were terrific possibilities here for luge runs.

Benham was taken on a flying tour of the various ski areas in the state, with stops at Billings, Red Lodge, Bozeman, West Yellowstone, Butte, Missoula, Kalispell, and Helena.

Following consultation with Benham, Gene Tripp, president of Lolo Hot Springs, Inc., announced that they would build a run there and intend to have it completed in time for the coming winter sports season. William Kerth, of Sacramento, California, and chairman of the U. S. Luge Committee, arrived at Lolo soon after Tripp's announcement, to lay out the course and construction started in September.

In addition to Lolo Hot Springs, Howard Kelsey, owner-operator of the Stagecoach Inn at West Yellowstone, has acquired the nearby Lionhead ski run and is seriously considering a luge run there.

James and Bill Miller of the Z-T ski run near Butte are including luge in development plans for that area, and also the Big Mountain ski resort in Whitefish.

The sleds are now only made in Europe, but Tuck Spring & Steel Co., in Missoula, is preparing to manufacture them.

A former bobsled Olympic champion and the only man in the world to have ridden every bobsled course in the world, Benham said Montana has the greatest potential of any place he'd ever been. He expressed amazement that Montana is not working harder to develop its natural resources, as far as winter sports are concerned, to the fullest.

Benham was delighted with his visit to Montana and stayed on to enjoy a couple of days of fishing.

The Lolo Hot Springs operators hope that he may return this winter for dedication ceremonies and to be the first man down the course, to be named the Stan Benham Luge Run.

The Lolo run will be approximately 3,500 feet in length and will include the regulation right, left, hairpin, S, and labyrinth curves, and straightaway.

The Lolo resort corporation has worked out plans for extensive development at the hot springs. Besides the luge course, there will be a ski run, dining room and lounge, and Alpine lodges. A new swimming pool and adjacent wading pool was dedicated Labor Day weekend.

What Is Luge?

Although luge is the youngest member of the Olympic family, it is an old sport. In Tyrol it is much older even than skiing.

Luge as a modern racing sport, however, was developed in the 19th century when British tourists started sled-racing on mountain roads in the Alps. From this, three sports were developed: bobsledding, skeleton, and tobogganning, or racing luge, as it is now mostly called

William Kerth, chairman of the U. S. Luge Committee, demonstrates proper way to ride luge.

But unlike the modern luge, the sleds were stiff and the toboggoner steered them by touching the ground with his hands which were covered with gloves with little iron points.

In the 1930's the big progress came: Martin Tietze invented the flexible sled. This was the beginning of the triumph of luge. Now the steering possibilities became as great as those of a bobsled, and

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Pictured above is the new swimming pool recently completed at Lolo Hot prings. The luge run terminates near the pool area. Lolo Hot Springs, Inc., plans an extensive winter and summer resort development.

WHAT IS LUGE?

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still everything is done with the body; nothing is mechanical. The luger rides the sled in a reclining position and uses a combination of hands, feet and weight movements to steer it.

The luger makes three basic movements: pulling up on the inward runner (which makes its aft-tip brake a bit), pushing the fore end of the outward runner to the inside, and placing the weight on the outward runner (which makes it go faster than the inward runner). Each one of these three movements makes the sled turn a bit. It is up to the tobogganer to find the right combination of the three for every particular circumstance.

Luge had its first big success in 1954 in Athens when it became an Olympic sport as a substitute for skeleton. And in 1957 it got its own international federation, the FIL (Federation Internationale de Luge).

Competetive luge runs are similar to bobsled runs, except they are steeper and shorter and the corners are narrower so that a heavy competitior has hardly any advantage. For recreation, however, a simple mountain road can be a perfect luge run. This makes luge a tremendously popular sport. In Austria, for instance, there are 15,000 organized lugers.

An indication of how popular the sport may become in America was given by a former Olympic skier-turned-luger, who was in Montana last summer. He had been a competitor in the luge events in the 1964 Winter Olympics held in Innsbruck. His enthusiasm for the sport is so intense that he has no desire to ever go back to skiing.

NEWS CLIP SERVICE

The Superior Press Clipping Service, operated by Mrs. Margie Hahn of Superior, will celebrate its seventh year of operation in November.

Mrs. Hahn subscribes to all of the newspapers published in the state, which number over ninety. Her clients inform her as to what news articles they are interested in, and she and her staff scan every article in every newspaper and send the clippings to whichever clients would be interested in that particular news item. In many instances, several clients would want the same article, so the article is duplicated for additional clients as needed.

During the first six months of operation, Mrs. Hahn did the work alone. Later, the clips were gotten out with the aid of her husband evenings, and a part time employee. At the present time there are two full-time employees and a part-time employee during rush periods.

Her clients are mainly businesses, associations, public relations and advertising firms, and state departments. She has about 70 clients in nine states. One client has listed over 3,000 items that he is interested in receiving clips on.

Mrs. Hahn is a native Montanan and a former school teacher. She learned this work when she lived in Denver, Colorado, and was employed by the Colorado Press Association Clipping Bureau.

In the entire United States there are about 75 press clipping bureaus. Mrs. Hahn is an associate member of the Montana Press Association and a member of the National Association of Press Clipping Bureaus.

2-Year Machinery Course Offered

A new farm equipment vocational training course is to be offered in the Helena Senior High School this fall and it will be open to qualified young men throughout Montana.

It will be a two-year course, opening September 7, to train young men as repairmen, partsmen, assemblers and salesmen.

Sponsors of the course are the Montana Hardware and Implement Association in cooperation with the State Department of Public Instruction. Local school funds will match federal vocational funds channeled through the state department.

A survey conducted by the association, with the help of the state department's agricultural division, indicated that there was definitely a need for training in this field. Farm equipment dealers and hardware men responding to the questionnaire for the survey said they would employ an additional 261 men, if they were qualified, and that they had 220 men now employed who needed additional training.

Students under 21 may attend tuition free by filing applications with the county superintendent of schools. Those over 21 will be charged a nominal tuition fee. Information about the course may be obtained from the Montana Hardware & Implement Association, P. O. Box 1152, Helena,

Classes will operate on a regular nine-month period, five days a week and five hours a day.

Liquor Plant In Helena

Alpha Industries, Inc., has recently been licensed by the Montana Liquor Control Board to "engage in the manufacture and processing of spiritous and intoxicating liquors" at its establishment at 740 Front Street in Helena.

Tom Clavin, president of the company, said the firm will market Lewis and Clark brand bourbon and blended whiskies, vodka and gin. He said they would ship high proof alcohol into Montana from Kentucky and rectify it for retail sale.

This is the first such plant to operate in Montana since the early 1930's. Alpha Industries has been attempting since 1961 to establish a rectifying and bottling plant in the state. An earlier application to the State Liquor Control Board for a license was denied on grounds the Board believed it had no legal power to grant it. The matter went to the District Court and then the Supreme Court. The way was finally cleared this year when the legislature passed an amendment permitting the proposed processing.

Clavin said that Alpha will employ at least 12 persons to begin with, possibly more later. They expect to be in operation within six months.

Pine Cone Originals

Joyce Rouse, pictured above, and her husband, Jack, own and operate the Pine Cone Original Shop in Red Lodge. She holds one of the wreaths which Blum's candy firm in San Francisco has ordered to decorate their holiday boxes. Dozens of the little pine cone trees beside her will be used to decorate the Blum shops in California. The Rouses also make pins, earrings, bracelets, cuff links, decorated pens and straw purses, and decorations for Christmas and other seasons, all from pine cones.

Artistry in pine cones has been developed to a high degree at the Pine Cone Originals shop in Red Lodge by Joyce and Jack Rouse. Pine cone handicraft is not new, but the pieces turned out by the Rouses are not only unusually attractive but are durable as well.

For several years the Rouses came to Red Lodge from their home in North Dakota to ski, and eventually decided this was where they wanted to live and raise their son, Fred, who is also an avid skier.

Red Lodge is a coal mining town and a winter and summer sports area. Mrs. Rouse began making items from pine cones for the tourist trade as a hobby in her home. She has since moved production into one of the largest buildings in Red Lodge and employs four people.

The pine cones are collected by Boy Scouts attending the nearby summer camp, and are treated for lasting beauty. They are then fashioned into jewelry, wreaths, center pieces, floral arrangements and even trees.

While attending the San Francisco Gift Show in February, the Rouse's secured an order for 1,400 wreaths from the Blum's candy firm and four dozen trees for their shops in California. Mrs. Rouse is holding a sample of one of the wreaths in the picture, and the small tree is beside her. Orders also came from Hawaii, Jackson Lake Lodge, Yellowstone Park Co., and many tourist areas in California.

In August the Rouse's are taking a display to the Minneapolis Gift Show. This is the Christmas show and buyers from all over come to Minneapolis to buy their holiday line. Included in their display will be the five-foot tree seen in the accompanying picture. This is made entirely from pine cones and is covered with tiny imported Italian lights. They hope to sell these trees to Dayton's and Marshall Fields for store display.

Next year they expect to have do-it-yourself kits available as they have had many requests for them, from nursing homes and hobby shops as well as from individuals.

Montana tourist shops are finding the products popular items, not only because they are attractive, but also because they are genuine Montana products and each bears a small sticker labeling them as "Pine Cone Originals from Red Lodge, Montana."

Forest Service To Research Production and Marketing

Two new forestry research projects dealing with production and marketing of wood products are being located in Missoula, according to Joseph F. Pechanec, Director of the U. S. Forest Service's Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

Chief objectives of the first research project will be to improve performance and reduce costs of manufacture of solid wood products from western woods. Principal concern will be with the technology of milling, drying, gluing, and fabrication. Edward S. Kotok, principal wood technologist, is transferring from Ogden, Utah, to Missoula as leader of this project. David P. Lowery, wood technologist, presently located in Missoula, will continue his present assignment to this research.

The second project is designed to find out how to expand or improve markets for various wood products that can be produced in the Rocky Mountains. This project is now headquartered in Ogden, Utah. Larry L. Kirkwold, assistant marketing analyst, is transferring from Ogden to Missoula to work with Robert E. Benson, marketing analyst, who has been working in Missoula since September, 1964.

Both projects will be located in the new Forestry Sciences Laboratory to be constructed on the University of Montana campus. Funds for construction were appropriated by the present session of Congress. Until this laboratory is completed about a year hence, temporary headquarters for the projects will be in the Federal Building in Missoula.

Humble Oil Expands

Humble Oil & Refining Company dedicated a modern refining operations control center at its Billings plant in July, along with the company's first hydrocracker to be completed anywhere in the United States.

Both installations are part of a seven million dollar modernization program started early in 1964 at Humble's Billings plant.

Speaking of the hydrocracker, H. W. Ferguson, executive vice president of Humble, said, "The new unit makes use of the latest development in manufacturing processes for the production of motor gasolines. The unit will enable Humble to significantly increase the quality of its motor fuels and manufacture gasolines needed by the automotive engines of the future."

Governor Babcock, speaking at the dedication of the new installations said, "It is encouraging that a long-time citizen such as Humble Oil & Refining Co. continually reflects its faith in Montana by greater investments and expansion."

Humble Oil has nine manufacturing plants in the United States. The Billings refinery is the newest. It employs about 260 people.

Paper Plant To Expand

Waldorf-Hoerner Paper Products Company west of Missoula has launched a multi-million dollar modernization and expansion program to extend over the next two years, according to N. H. Sandberg, president.

Sandberg said the changes will bolster the company's position in the marketplace, put more value on sawdust and shavings, and help to reduce smoke and odor.

"To accomplish these things," he said, "it's necessary to change our cooking method. The latest continuous cooking equipment will be installed, permitting introduction of pulp made from sawdust and shavings."

Sandberg said the use of such former waste materials will put thousands of additional dollars into circulation in the area.

The new equipment has already been ordered and includes a second paper machine for the mill. Delivery of the machine, which will require a new building, is expected within 15 months. Waldorf-Hoerner now produces a high-strength brown paper for manufacture of boxes at parent factories in the middle west. The new machine will open up additional markets and permit a broader variety of product.

The new continuous cooking equipment on order is the end product of many years of refinement, according to Sandberg. The cooker will produce a stronger grade of pulp and therefore allow an admixture of pulp made from sawdust and shavings.

Also, the new cooker will emit relief and blow gases in a steady stream rather than in periodic bursts, as the batch cookers do now. This means, said Sandberg, that these gases can be burned off far more easily and effectively, thereby reducing odor.

Burning of these gases is the next major refinement at the Missoula plant in the area of odor abatement, beyond the heavy liquor oxidation process installed last fall. The two processes, according to Sandberg, represent the most advanced technique available to the industry today.

Sandberg estimated the program will result in 60 new jobs at the plant. Present employment is about 265.

ANACONDA ALUMINUM CO. ADDS THIRD POTLINE AND ANNOUNCES A FOURTH

The Anaconda Aluminum Company has completed installation of a third potline at its plant in Columbia Falls. The multi-million dollar expansion project which was begun in 1964 will increase the rated output of the plant by about 50 per cent.

The new potline consists of two 1,080-foot long buildings, each containing 60 reduction pots for converting alumina (Al_2O_3) to aluminum.

The first aluminum from the new line was added to the plant's production on the 10th anniversary of the plant. Among the officials attending the ceremony were former Governor Hugo J. Aronson and Clyde E. Weed, chairman of the Anaconda Company executive committee, both of whom participated in the initial dedication of the plant on August 15, 1955, and Governor Tim Babcock.

When in full production, the additional line will increase the plant's annual capacity from 67,500 tons to 100,000 tons a year. About 600 people are employed, and the new line will add from 50 to 60 new employees to the plant payroll.

Power for Columbia Falls plant is obtained through Bonneville Power Administration from nearby Hungry Horse Dam.

Thomas D. Gebhardt of Louisville, Kentucky, president of Anaconda Aluminum, confirmed at the dedication ceremonies that the company plans to build a fourth potline by the fall of 1968. The addition of the fourth line will boost the plant's capacity to approximately 135,000 tons of metal annually, and will give the plant a total of 480 reduction cells.

KOA Campgrounds Chain Originated In Billings

Hotel and motel chains have been with us for a long time, and now the same is happening to campgrounds. Four Billings businessmen have started Kampgrounds of America, Inc.

The company provides franchise operators with standardized pre-fabricated buildings, standardized campground layouts by a landscape architect and other aids not available to the independent operator.

As a result, the typical KOA campground carries as its trademark an A-frame building with two wings. In this pre-fab are hot showers, flush toilets, coin laundry, grocery store, campers' supplies, telephones, tourist information service and mail and messenger service. On sale are firewood, charcoal, gasoline and propane gas.

Camp sites have tables and benches and fireplaces, and many have water, sewage and electrical hookups.

Launched only a year ago, this franchise system of campgrounds now boasts 100 facilities in 22 states west of the Mississippi. This year, according to general manager Huntley Childs, Jr., KOA will move into the eastern states and link the two oceans with a nation-wide chain.

There are already 9 KOA's in Montana, and five planned for completion in 1966. A directory is available which lists all of the facilities now in operation, and includes information on charges, directions for finding the camp, description of nearby recreation, and gives the name and phone number of the operators. Advertising states that "KOA will soon be the Camper's Host from Coast to Coast."

President of the company is David G. Drum of Billings, Childs was formerly executive vice president of the Yellowstone Park Company. Information regarding franchises can be obtained from Kampgrounds of America, Inc., P. O. Box 1791, Billings.

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